



■ Current Courthouse, shown from the corner of 7th and Oak, in Eugene.

## MEASURE 20-299 PROPOSES FUNDING

## A NEW LANE COUNTY COURTHOUSE TO ADDRESS

## SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY ISSUES

**If passed, Measure 20-299 would authorize Lane County to issue \$154 million in bonds to build a County Courthouse. The bonds would be supplemented with \$98 million in state and federal funding.**

The current Courthouse is used for many types of cases, from adoptions and civil disputes to murder cases. It also houses the Sheriff's and District Attorney's offices. The building was constructed 60 years ago when Lane County's population was less than half of what it is today.

The proposed courthouse would be located across from the Lane County Public Service Building (refer to map on page 3).

### **Economics of the Proposed Project**

The proposed project cost includes the full costs of the facility for the Circuit Court, District Attorney's Office, Victims' Services and Sheriff's Office, from property through furnishings. If the measure passes, the County would work with an independent construction auditor to ensure cost oversight and transparency.

Economic modeling demonstrates that construction of the courthouse would provide an estimated \$53.2 million in wages for more than 1,330 workers during construction.

### **If the proposed bond measure passes, the County would adhere to a Community Benefits Agreement that prioritizes:**

**1**

**Local**  
businesses,  
contractors  
and workers.

**2**

**Living wages**  
and family  
health benefits.

**3**

Project  
**workforce**  
**diversity**  
and equity.

**4**

**Sustainability**  
objectives in  
design and  
construction.

**5**

**Training and**  
**apprenticeship**  
opportunities.

## CURRENT BUILDING DETAILS



- Cases processed each year: **33,000**
- Number of jurors in 2018: **8,511**
- Users each day: **650**

- Built in: **1959**
- Size: **Four stories and 15 courtrooms**
- Access: **One entrance**

## CURRENT ISSUES

### UNEQUAL ACCESS

All community members have the right to access the Courthouse — this includes people of all ages and levels of mobility — whether they are involved in a case, are witnesses, or are there for support. The current Courthouse is not accessible for people with limited mobility, including those using wheelchairs, walkers or strollers.

### OUT OF SPACE

When the current courthouse was built, it included only six courtrooms. Today, even with 15 retrofitted courtrooms, space issues lead to late start times and provide no room for mediation or specialized courts such as mental health court or veterans court.

Seven of the courtrooms are unable to hold a full 12-person jury or a hearing that involves more than two parties.

The lack of space in the courtrooms also means there is not enough room to add ramps that would provide ADA access for jurors, witnesses or other participants.

### LIMITED SECURITY

The building's small size and design limit the ability to provide privacy and security for victims. For example:

- Inmates share hallways and an elevator with victims, families, witnesses, jurors and judges.
- Courtrooms are too small to allow separate space for opposing parties.
- There is no place for people to have a confidential legal conversation.

### RENOVATE OR BUILD?

Repairs to the building have offered short-term solutions, but they are unable to address the primary challenge of lack of space.

In addition, basic systems like heating, cooling and plumbing are faulty and no longer reliable.

Inspections and independent review of the building have indicated it is likely that renovation would cost more than new construction. Renovation would not provide additional space to accommodate the more than 33,000 cases filed each year.

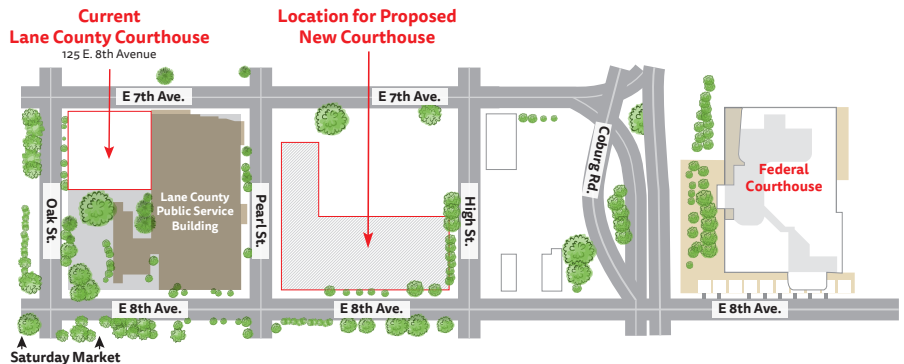
## PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

### THE PROPOSED COURTHOUSE WOULD INCLUDE:

- Accessible customer service area to help visitors navigate court matters.
- Improved jury security process to shorten duration of duty.
- Expanded, secure and private space for domestic violence victims and other victims' services.
- Safer experience for witnesses, victims and staff.
- "Right size" the courtrooms and add flex spaces.
- Small meeting spaces for private legal conversations.
- Separation between inmates in custody, victims and witnesses.
- Functional plumbing and heating, air conditioning and ventilation.
- Connectivity and video technology in courtrooms for evidence display.
- Equal access for those with mobility challenges.

### LOCATION FOR PROPOSED COURTHOUSE

The Courthouse would be built one block east of its current location – across from the Lane County Public Service Building. The Jury Assembly room, which is currently in the Public Service Building, would be relocated into the new Courthouse. The Public Service Building adjoins the Courthouse, but it is a separate building and would remain in use.



### COST OF THE MEASURE

**\$154**  
MILLION

#### PROPOSED BOND FUNDING

The estimated annual cost of the measure is \$0.27 per \$1,000 assessed property value. If Measure 20-299 is passed, the annual cost to the owner of a home assessed at \$200,000 would be \$54. (Voters should refer to their property tax statement for the assessed property value, which is different than market value for most.) If the measure does not pass, no additional assessment would be made and the project would not be completed.

**\$94**  
MILLION

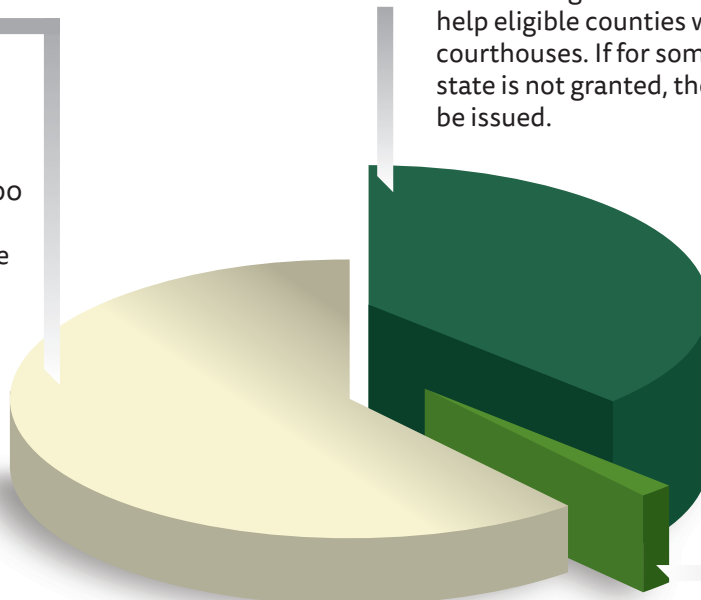
#### STATE FUNDING

At this time, Lane County is poised to receive \$94 million in funding from the State, if voters pass the measure. This funding is related to a legislative commitment to help eligible counties with the cost associated with aging courthouses. If for some reason the funding from the state is not granted, the Courthouse bonds would not be issued.

**\$4** MILLION

#### FEDERAL FUNDING

The County has designated \$4 million in federal timber payments for this project.





**Lane County Government**  
**125 East 8th Avenue**  
**Eugene, OR 97401**

# **MEASURE 20-299 ELECTION INFO**

**This information was reviewed by the Oregon Secretary  
of State's Office for compliance with ORS 260.432.**

**Ballots are due by 8pm on Tuesday, May 21.**

Find your closest ballot drop box:

<https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/drop-box-locator.aspx>

**vote!**